



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

DRAFT MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Virtual Location via Zoom

Date: August 11, 2020

Time: 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Justin Tokioka, Chairperson; Nikki Kepo'o, Board Member; Kirby Shaw, Colin Whited, Kamaile Hopfe, Staff

ABSENT: Gerald Isobe and Ami Tsuji-Jones, Board Members

GUEST: Susan Kroe-Unabia

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Darlene Baird and Carie Sarver

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Justin Tokioka called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the February 12, 2020 minutes was deferred to the next Committee meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

NOTE: The minutes were written in the order the items were shown on the agenda, not as they were discussed at the meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" – Update

Staff announced that the amended Communication Access rules were signed by the Governor and delivered to the Lieutenant Governor's office on August 4, 2020. The new rules are scheduled to take effect on August 14, 2020. Staff explained that an email will be sent to stakeholders with a copy of the rules and other pertinent documents, including the revised Recommended Fee Schedule, State Agency Manual for the Provision of Sign Language

Interpreters, and FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Sheet about the different changes taking place. This will also be posted on DCAB's website.

B. Recommended Fee Schedule and Manual for Hiring Interpreters

Staff announced that the Board will vote to approve the Recommended Fee Schedule at the General Board meeting on August 13, 2020. Staff also distributed a draft of the State Agency Manual for the Provision of Sign Language Interpreters. As mentioned earlier, both documents will be sent to stakeholders and posted on DCAB's website along with the new Communication Access rules.

C. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update

Staff reported that the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) test performances of three interpreters were evaluated. They all were issued an HQAS credential; one received a Level IV, one received a Level III, and one received a Level II. Staff also reported that there are currently thirty one interpreters enrolled in the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program and that there are a total of forty interpreters (26 HQAS, 14 RID) who completed the CPC Verification form and submitted the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential Application.

D. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops – Update

Staff announced that due to budget restrictions brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic, DCAB is unable to set aside funds to sponsor CEU workshops as previously planned. Staff added that providing continuing education opportunities for sign language interpreters is a priority, and that they are looking into hosting CEU workshops in-house on topics related to disability laws and the legislative process. The Committee also recommended looking into partnering with other groups, such as Native Hawaiian organizations, to offer continuing education opportunities for sign language interpreters.

V. New Business

A. DCAB Plan of Action for FY 2020 – 2021

Staff announced that the DCAB Plan of Action for fiscal year 2020 – 2021 will be presented at the Annual Planning Meeting on August 13, 2020 and voted on at the General Board meeting that same day. Staff distributed a copy of the proposed Communication Access goals and objectives for next fiscal year. The Committee did not recommend any revisions.

VI. Next Meeting

To be determined.

VII. Announcements

Staff announced that the Office of Information Practices (OIP) has a draft bill related to virtual meetings. This bill proposed to amend the Sunshine Law to allow boards to safely conduct board business and expand public participation through virtual meetings using interactive conference technology while also providing for in-person testimony and observation at a physical location. Staff added that OIP hopes that interested persons will review the draft bill and provide comments by the end of August, before OIP submits a proposal for consideration as part of the Administration's legislative package for next year. If members of the public have comments on this matter, please put in the subject line "comments for draft legislation" and email comments to oip@hawaii.gov.

Committee Chairperson Justin Tokioka announced that, due to personal reasons, he is considering stepping down from the Board. He thanked Board members and DCAB staff for their continued support.

Board member Nikki Kepoo announced that the University of Hawaii was in the process of establishing a Hawaii Sign Language program. She added that this effort is being led by Ami Tsuji-Jones and Linda Lambrecht. More information will be shared once available.

VIII. Open Forum

No issues discussed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

COLIN M. WHITED